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Reconciliating Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

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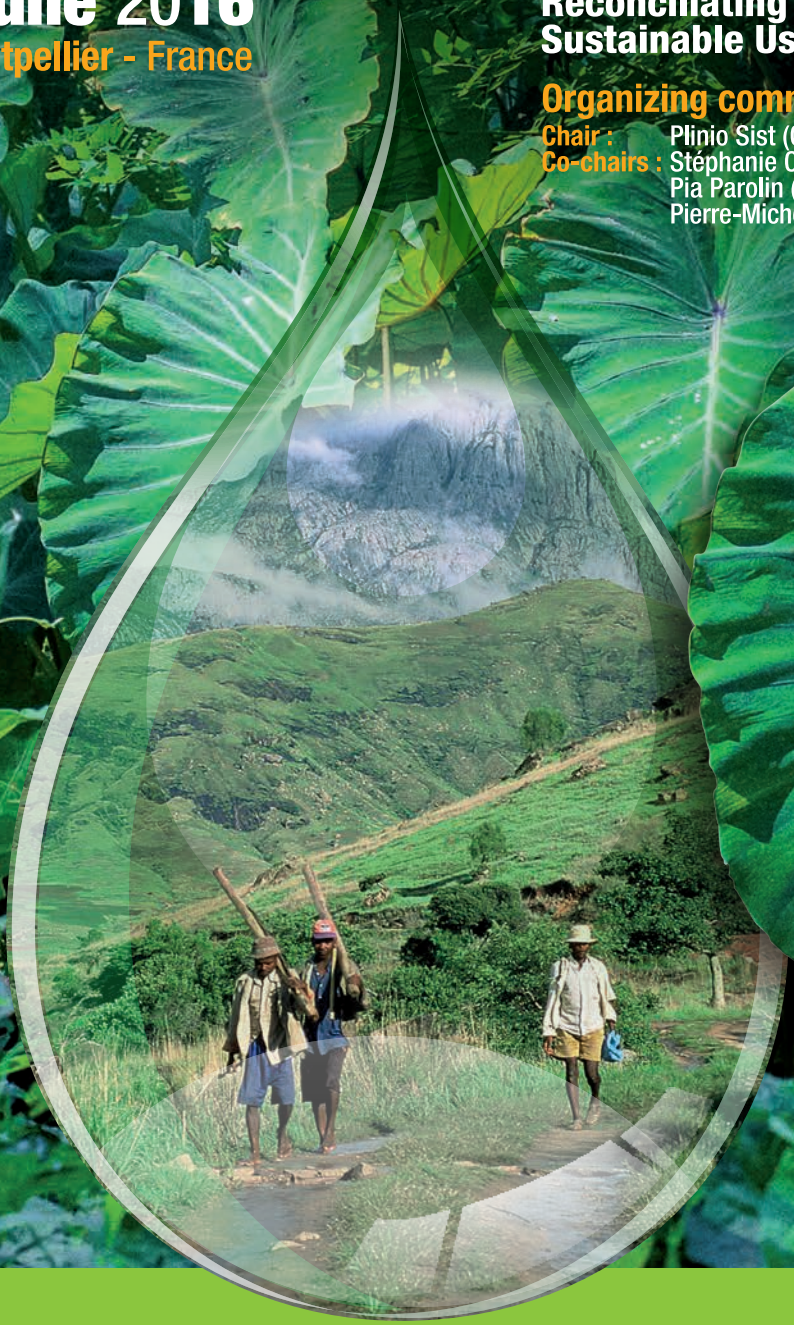

PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS

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O55-07 – S55 *Consumptive uses of wildlife in sub saharan africa: the janus bifrons syndrome*
Thursday 23 June / 08:00-10:00 – Einstein

New technologies: mobile data collection system implication for wildlife management in Central Africa

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If wildlife is considered as a renewable natural resource, for many rural Africans the occurrence of human wildlife conflict (HWC) overshadows expected outcomes from conservation and co-management initiatives. To reduce the magnitude of HWC, modern approaches deal with problem animals that cause conflicts while increasing the level of tolerance in the affected human populations. Assessing the local impact of HWC is part of this mitigation package, the objective been to provide timely information to adapt strategies and actions as data indicates what works and why. Lack of communication and trust between wildlife authorities and people concerned by HWC makes the effectiveness of the reporting poor, which raises the question of selecting the most appropriate technology for a real-time monitoring scheme with the capacity to inform decision-makers and improve the understanding of conflicts. To explore the feasibility of HWC monitoring, a series of tests was conducted in central Africa with KoBoCollect, an application from the KoBoToolbox an open source of tools for data collection and analysis based on OpenDataKit. With this application, data were collected using Smartphone on and off-line then synchronized into a database. Involving a regional HWC working group the 5W&H method was chosen to develop data trees of the key information needed to understand HWC problems. The 30+ variables were selected to develop an electronic form and responses to questions been facilitated by multiple choice responses with checkbox options. After a 9 month field test from April to December 2015, more than 300 electronic submissions were collected from Congo (42%), DRC (28%), Gabon (19%) and Cameroun (7%). Not surprisingly the elephant is the species most often involved in HWC (51%) followed by the hippo (11%) and rodents (11%), the other 11 species involved in HWC playing a minor role. If human casualties were rare (2%), the most predominant impact was crop raiding (82%). Mitigation measures were assessed according to the set of solutions of an existing HWC toolbox. Only making noise (33%) or fire (26%) appeared to be solutions mainly applied by local communities. Tested also to monitor hunting pressure in the same region KoBoCollect appears to be an easy to use tool to collect data at low cost in remote areas but questions remain on how to promote and popularize such an approach to fulfill management needs at landscape, national and regional levels.

O55-08 – S55 *Consumptive uses of wildlife in sub saharan africa: the janus bifrons syndrome*
Thursday 23 June / 08:00-10:00 – Einstein

community commercial conservancies as a valuable land use option in Southern Africa

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Southern African models of wildlife management are based on the devolution of wildlife management rights and benefits to private owners and communities. The guiding assumption behind these models is that wildlife management becomes more effective once local users are able to manage it and benefit from it. In recent decades, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe have decentralized state decision-making to local stakeholders, thus enabling them to benefit from numerous opportunities offered by the wildlife tourism industry, especially trophy hunting (a high-value-added activity). This approach has been particularly successful on commercial farmlands, where substantial areas have been converted to game ranches that generate profits mainly through trophy hunting but also through live animal sales, ecotourism and game meat production, among others. Although making good profits while conserving wildlife and providing social and economic benefits in rural areas, commercial wildlife ranches have been often perceived as "While only" elite businesses, resulting in some cases in serious political and land tenure tensions.

The decentralization approach has been less straightforward on communal lands because communal property regimes (in which defined groups may collectively exploit common resources within a defined jurisdiction) need to be established. Community-based wildlife management approaches were initiated successfully in Zimbabwe in the early 1990s under the CAMPFIRE programme, although these were later hampered by political developments. Other countries have also adopted community-based wildlife management approaches. In Namibia, for example, communal area conservancies are proving to be highly successful in a context of low human population density. There is a need however, to develop community commercial conservancy as a wildlife-based land use option in the more general context of Southern African populated communal lands.

In this communication, we promote the idea of developing models of multi-purpose wildlife use and trade as a development tool offering alternative livelihood options for rural communities living in marginal areas rich in wildlife. Tacking this challenge will require a supporting the revision of decentralization processes, adapting legal frameworks, and developing innovative business models involving effective public-private partnerships.